

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1373
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2015
Special Scheme for Sustainable Tourism
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Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has initiated any special scheme to ensure sustainable tourism in the country in the wake of growing climate change risks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has made any analysis on the impact of global climate change on the historical monuments and other tourist destinations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has conducted any research on the various issues of sustainable tourism and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) & (e): The Ministry of Tourism has launched a Comprehensive Sustainable Tourism Criteria for India (STCI) for three major segments of tourism industry, namely Tour Operators, Accommodation and Beaches, Backwaters, Lakes & Rivers sectors during the sensitization Workshop on Sustainable Tourism for Stakeholders organized in August 2014. The criterion has been adopted by the stakeholders.

Further, the Ministry has guidelines for approval of Hotel Projects at the implementation stage and also guidelines for classification/re-classification of operational hotels under various categories. As per these guidelines, hotels at the project stage itself are required to incorporate various eco-friendly measures like Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), Rain Water Harvesting System, waste management system, pollution control, introduction of non-Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) equipment for refrigeration and air conditioning, measures for energy and water conservation etc. Under the guidelines for project level & classification/re-classification of operational hotels, it has been prescribed that the architecture of the hotel buildings in hilly and ecologically fragile areas should be sustainable and energy efficient and as far as possible be in conformity with the local ethos and make use of local designs and material.

The tour operators approved by Ministry of Tourism have to sign a pledge for commitment towards Safe & Honourable Tourism and Sustainable Tourism to fully implement Sustainable Tourism practices, consistent with the best environment and heritage protection standards, such that the present tourism resource requirements optimize both local community benefit and future sustainable uses.

The Ministry of Tourism holds a constant dialogue with State Governments/U.T. Administrations, various tourism related institutions and stakeholders for drawing up strategies for development and promotion of tourism in the country including Sustainable Tourism. The Ministry of Tourism supports from time to time various seminars and events that deliberate or focus on tourism in the country including Sustainable Tourism in rural areas.

However, no analysis on the impact of global climate change on the historical monuments and other tourist destinations has been made and no research has been conducted on the various issues of sustainable tourism by the Ministry of Tourism.
